

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293887

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: WARSAW PACT DECLARATION ON FREEZING NATO AND WP
MEMBERSHIP

REF: MADRID 9071, STATE 291456, MADRID 8921

1. STATE 291456 CONTAINS INITIAL USG REACTION TO WARSAW
PACT PROPOSAL ON FREEZING NATO AND WP MEMBERSHIP, AND MAY
BE USED TO RESPOND TO OREJA. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO
POINT OUT THAT THIS PROPOSAL SEEKS TO BLOCK SPAIN FROM
ACHIEVING THE LONG-SOUGHT SPANISH OBJECTIVE OF FULL
PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN SECURITY COOPERATION, JUST AS
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THAT GOAL BECOMES MORE FEASIBLE, AND WOULD EFFECTIVELY

FORECLOSE THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION AS A MATTER TO BE DECIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SPAIN, AS WELL AS THE OTHER NATO MEMBERS.

2. IT MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL TO REMIND OREJA THAT SOVIETS HAVE CONSISTENTLY MADE OFFERS TO FREEZE A GIVEN SITUATION WHEN IN THEIR PERCEPTION, THAT SITUATION IS FAVORABLE TO THEM. LARGE AND CONTINUING BUILD-UP OF SOVIET FORCES IN EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN UNDOUBTEDLY WEIGHS HEAVILY IN SOVIET CALCULATION THAT SOVIET SECURITY

INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE HARMED BY FREEZE ON NATO AND WARSAW PACT MEMBERSHIP, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE NO LIKELY PROSPECTS FOR NEW WP MEMBERS.

3. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT, EVEN BEFORE THE WARSAW PACT INITIATIVE, A VIEW SEEMED TO BE GAINING CURRENCY THAT SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO MIGHT PROVIDE A PRETEXT FOR SOVIET INTERVENTION IN YUGOSLAVIA (MADRID 8921, PARA 4) OR IN SOME OTHER WAY, FOR REASONS OF "BALANCE", PROMPT YUGOSLAVIA TO SHIFT TO THE WARSAW PACT. (FYI: WE HAVE PICKED UP SAME TRAIN OF THOUGHT RECENTLY FROM A DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIAN AT THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY - PROTECT.) YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WE REGARD THIS TRAIN OF THOUGHT AS A CANARD (AND PERHAPS AS DISINFORMATION). WE DO NOT BELIEVE BELGRADE WOULD NECESSARILY VIEW SPANISH ROLE IN NATO WITH DISFAVOR, DESPITE THEIR STATED OPPOSITION TO BLOCS, AND IN ANY CASE YUGOSLAVIA WOULD NOT WANT TO ALTER ITS BASIC ORIENTATION BASED ON SPANISH-NATO RELATIONS.

4. FINALLY, AS APPROPRIATE, YOU MAY REASSURE OREJA OF CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR EVENTUAL SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD THAT END.
ROBINSON

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